

more other metallic cations selected from a Group I metal cation other than cesium, a Group VI metal cation, a Group VIII metal cation, a Group IX metal cation, a Group X metal cation, a Group XI metal cation, and a Group XIV metal cation. Therefore, a free acid silico-tungstic catalyst is not disclosed. In addition, although the reactions may be carried out in the presence of water, no amounts are specified and there is no mention of the use of any support for the heteropolyacid salts. Accordingly, many of the present claim limitations are not met by this reference.

With regard to Inoue, again no specific disclosure of a silico-tungstic free acid catalyst is made. Similarly, there is no disclosure of a siliceous supported catalyst as claimed by Applicants (Claim 4). With regard to Sano, there is no disclosure of the claimed silico-tungstic acid catalyst or any mention of Applicants support pore size (Claim 4). Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Inoue, JP 5-170698, JP 5-255185 and Sano in view of Lazier and Deller. The Examiner relies on Lazier and Deller as shown in the use of a carrier. Applicants respectfully traverse.

With respect to Lazier, a process is disclosed for the direct esterification of olefins with organic acids, for example ethylene with acetic acid in the presence of a heteropolyacid catalyst. However, Lazier does not disclose Applicants specific silicotungstic acid. Furthermore, page 2, left hand column, lines 29-34 states: "It is particularly

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preferred to use a phosphotungstic acid or chromephosphoric acid preferably deposited on a porous supporting material such as silica gel or activated charcoal, although other supports such as alumina, bentonite, kieselguhr, or asbestos may be employed." Further, it is clear that Lazier only use a support with phosphotungstic acid or chromephosphoric acid, not the claimed silico-tungstic acid. In addition, there is no mention of the pore size of the support, especially when using silica. Finally, this reference is silent on the addition of water to the esterification reaction. Accordingly, Lazier does not add the failed disclosures in the primary references.

With respect to Deller, a process for pyrogenically producing silicon dioxide is disclosed. According to column 2, lines 59-61, the silicon dioxides can be used as catalyst carriers "in the production of vinyl acetate monomer from ethylene, acetic acid and oxygen as well as catalyst in the ethylene hydration method." Applicants note that this document does not mention the production of ethyl acetate from ethylene and acetic acid in the presence of water or the use of a heteropolyacid catalyst. Thus, there is no reason to use the carrier of Deller in the processes of the primary references. Furthermore, Deller does not suggest the silico-tungstic free acid catalyst.


In summary, not only are the primary references deficient in that the specific requirements to which Claim 1 is now limited are not present, but the secondary references are also equally deficient. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance in such action as respectfully requested.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this response, Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from deposit account no. 06-0308.

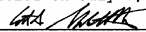
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.115** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in the envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on July 7, 1997.



Scott A. McCollister

July 7, 1997

Date